

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4633

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

DEA HQ WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LU

SUBJ: DRUG PROBLEM IN LUXEMBOURG

REF: A) STATE 199804; B) LUXEMBOURG 0707

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH MR. EMILE KRIEPS, WHO IS BOTH GOL MINISTER OF PUBLIC FORCES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHARGE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT PER REF A). ALTHOUGH MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE SHARE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CUSTOMS AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT, MINISTER OF PUBLIC FORCES COULD HAVE A KEY ROLE IN NARCOTICS EFFORT BECAUSE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MUST BE RECRUITED VIA THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY AND COMPLETE AT LEAST TWO YEARS MILITARY SERVICE BEFORE BEGINNING CUSTOMS CAREER. (THIS REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO FIREMAN, FORESTERS, AND OTHERS AS WELL AND IS LUXEMBOURG'S CHIEF INDUCEMENT TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO THE ARMY. (WITHOUT THE MILITARY PREREQUISITE FOR OTHER SERVICES, GOL OFFICIALS FEAR ARMY RECRUITMENT WOULD DWINDLE TO NEAR ZERO.)

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KRIEPS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO BEEF UP CUSTOMS PERSONNEL

BY SHORT-CIRCUITING MILITARY PREREQUISITE. HE IS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING LEGISLATION IN UPCOMING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR WOMEN CUSTOMS INSPECTORS WHO WOULD NOT HAVE TO MEET MILITARY REQUIREMENT.

2. KRIEPS' INTEREST IN DRUG PROBLEM WAS STIMULATED BY RECENT REPORT HE RECEIVED AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH FROM THE LUXEMBOURG EQUIVALENT OF THE US SURGEON GENERAL. REPORT INDICATES THERE ARE SOME 2,000 HABITUAL DRUG USERS IN LUXEMBOURG. THIS GROUP CONSISTS MAINLY OF LUXEMBOURG AND IMMIGRANT WORKERS WHO LIVE IN THE INDUSTRIAL SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. MOST ARE OCCASIONAL USERS OF MILD NARCOTICS RATHER THAN HARD DRUG ADDICTS. NONETHELESS, KRIEPS REGARDS THE FIGURES AS SERIOUS AND POTENTIALLY ALARMING SINCE LUXEMBOURG OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE NO MORE THAN 50 ADDICTS IN THEIR COUNTRY. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET, EVEN IF BRIEFLY, WITH VISITING CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: SINCE LACK OF PERSONNEL IS A KEY PROBLEM FOR LUXEMBOURG CUSTOMS AND NARCOTICS SERVICES, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES COULD PROVIDE KRIEPS WITH FACTS AND FIGURES RE WORLD-WIDE DRUG SMUGGLING PROBLEM WHICH HE COULD USE IN HIS EFFORT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS PERSONNEL. DEA BRUSSELS, WHICH IS WELL AWARE OF LUXEMBOURG PROBLEM (SEE BRUSSELS 07745 NOTAL) AND DOES EXCELLENT JOB OF LIAISON WITH LUXEMBOURG NARCOTICS OFFICERS, MAY ALSO WISH TO PROVIDE INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE PASSED TO MINISTER KRIEPS.

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